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THE HOSPITALS OF PARIS.

[See page 106.]

HOPITAL DES VENERIENS.

THIS hospital, otherwise called *Hopital du Midi*, or *Des Capucins*, because the house formerly belonged to the Capucin friars, was appropriated, under the reign of Louis XVI., to the treatment of venereal diseases. Before that period, nothing could exceed the state of the unfortunate wretches who labored under the effects of syphilis in this the most civilized and most advanced of European capitals. Previous to the year 1785, the syphilitic patients were received into the *Hotel Dieu*, *Salpêtrière*, and *Bicêtre*; in this latter hospital, twenty or twenty-five beds were distributed amongst 200 patients; one half of this number were compelled to sleep four in a bed, from eight in the evening to one at night; the other half from one o'clock to seven in the morning. The patients had often to wait six, nine, or even twelve months in the wards, before any treatment was administered, and, to crown all, while the court revelled in unbounded licentiousness, the unfortunate wretches, who merely followed the example of their king, could not be received into this pig-sty, according to the express enactments of the administration, without being *whipped* (*fustigés*) before and after their treatment.

At its origin, the Venereal Hospital was confined to the reception of new-born children laboring under syphilis; these were suckled by nurses affected with the same disease, to whom mercury was administered. After the year 1785, the patients from *Bicêtre* were received, and since then the hospital has been gradually enlarged. In 1822, the number of beds amounted to 612, and about 3500 patients are now annually admitted. Within the last few months, however, a change has taken place, and the female patients are for the future to be treated in a distinct hospital.

Mercury, in its various preparations, forms the basis of treatment employed; but the form almost universally preferred, is Van Sweiten's liquor (a solution of corrosive sublimate); in many cases mercurial frictions are substituted. When secondary symptoms come on and are rebellious, the tisan of Feltz is employed by M. Cullerier with great success; this is composed in the following manner:—*Sarsaparilla*, 3 ij; *Isinglass*, 3 jss.; *Crude Antimony powdered*, 3 viii.; *Water*, lb. xii. This is boiled down to one-half, and the patient takes two pints of the decoction during the day. The surgeons of this hospital are MM. Cullerier and Ricord.

HOPITAL DES ENFANS TROUVÉS.

This establishment was founded for the reception of all children (up to the age of two years) who are abandoned by their parents. The infants who appear to be healthy are immediately sent off to the country, where they are nursed; the others are placed in the hospital. The latter contain 200 beds, or, more properly speaking, cradles; viz. 100 for the healthy children, 20 for those who are weaned, and 80 for the sick: besides these there are 120 beds occupied by the nurses.

When we reflect that there are nearly 3000 students in medicine, and more than 3000 students in law, in the vicinity of this hospital, and that more than the moiety of this number have mistresses, without any means, or even inclination, to support the fruit of what is called "love" in the quartier Latin, we can readily imagine that a foundling hospital does not want for candidates; in fact, the number received yearly is 5000, and in 1828 reached as high as 5600. The mortality amongst the infants at the *Enfants Trouvés* is excessive, and the diseases which are most fatal are, hardening of the cellular tissue (*sclerema*, skin-bound), and *muguet*. A statistical view of four years, from 1808 to 1811 inclusive, gives the following particulars:—

18,500 children were received into the establishment; and of these 2248 were sent to the hospital, viz.:

705 whose lives were in extreme danger, from feebleness, &c.; dead 631, cured 74.

645 affected with induration of the cellular tissue; dead 567, cured 78.

116 affected with aphthæ, &c.; dead 92, cured 24.

433 cases of ophthalmia, itch, pustules, &c.; dead 119, cured 153; 161 transferred to the venereal hospital.

205 cases of icterus and diarrhœa; dead 154, cured 51.

47 cases of convulsions; dead 34, cured 13.

46 cases of tumors of various natures; dead 32, cured 14.

11 cases of fracture; dead 5, cured 6.

22 cases of deformity; dead 18, sent to the country 4.

19 cases of hydrocephalus or spina bifida; dead 18, sent to the country 1.

Thus of 2248 patients, we have 1669 deaths, and 418 cures, or a proportion of the former to the latter as four to one. Besides, this enormous mortality takes place in a very short space of time; for during the four years of which we have spoken, the average sojourn of each patient in the hospital was only nine days and a half.

The physicians are MM. Baron and P. Dubois; the surgeons are MM. Thevenot and Auvity.

MAISON D'ACCOUCHEMENTS.*

Before the accession of Buonaparte to the throne of the empire, pregnant women were received into the *Hotel Dieu*, where they were crowded, for want of sufficient space, three or even four in the same bed. The consequence was, a mortality of one in every thirteen women delivered. To remedy this evil a separate establishment was erected for the recep-

* Otherwise called *Hospice de la Maternité*.

tion of women who have reached the eighth month of pregnancy, or who are in imminent danger of being put to bed at any period. No stranger is admitted into the wards where they lie, and they are not even compelled to give in their names or places of abode. The number of beds in the Maternité is 433, viz. 150 for the women who attend at the moment of labor; 200 for those already delivered; 25 for the children; 8 for the nurses; and 150 for the *sages-femmes*, the only pupils who are here admitted.

The average length of time during which the women remain in the hospital after delivery is about eight days. During 10 years, from 1804 to 1813 inclusive, the number of patients received was 19,000, and the mortality 1 to 22 deliveries. The number of twin cases was about 19 per annum; and in the 19,000 births, only two cases of triplets occurred. Since 1813, the number of receptions has considerably increased; thus, in 1822, the number amounted to 2800; and, in 1828, to 3400. Of 2700 women delivered in 1814, 2400 declared themselves not married, and nearly all abandoned their children.

CLINIQUES DE LA FACULTE.

This is a small hospital, which has been erected this year, immediately opposite the School of Medicine. It contains about 120 beds, and is exclusively destined for clinical instruction. The physicians are, MM. Rostan and Dubois, professors of medical pathology and midwifery to the school; and M. J. Cloquet, one of the professors of clinical surgery. It also serves for the examination of the students of the fourth year, who are brought to the bed-side of the patient, and there undergo a truly practical *épreuve*, being compelled to form a diagnosis, and to answer all questions that may be addressed to them on the state of the patient. As the hospital, as yet, contains only some ten or a dozen of patients, we shall abstain from any further particulars, until a period of full activity arrives.

HOSPICE DE LA SALPÊTRIÈRE.

This immense establishment, which was founded by Louis XIV. for the reception of the beggars, is now a house of refuge for indigent females above 70 years of age, and also an hospital for those affected with mental alienation, and cancerous diseases accounted incurable in the other hospitals. It contains no less than 5000 beds for the poor superannuated females, and 400 for the sick. These latter are confided to the care of MM. Piorry and Cruveilhier. M. Cruveilhier has 148 beds. The diseases most frequently seen in his wards are, chronic catarrh, diseases of the heart, and paralysis. He is present at every autopsy which is made, and it is in this hospital that he finds the elements of his splendid productions in pathological anatomy. M. Cruveilhier has also the care of the incurable cancerous patients, amounting to about 200. M. Piorry has a service analogous to that of the preceding physician; and used to attract a number of followers by his remarks on auscultation and percussion. The epileptic patients, to the number of 400, are under the care of M. Petit. The remedies which he employs most constantly are baths and douches, general and local bleeding, valerian, and antispasmodics.

Thirty-six surgical beds were under the care of M. Lallement, who has died within the last few weeks.

The deranged patients are committed to MM. Pariset and Mitivie, and the fools to M. Falret. The number amounts to about 1.060, and the average of receptions to 500 per annum, of whom 200 die, and 300 are cured,—a very high proportion of the latter, if we reflect on their vast age, and that many have only recourse to the hospital as a last resource, when they have been pronounced incurable elsewhere.

The prevailing feature of the treatment in this portion of the hospital is extreme gentleness; and violent measures are never had recourse to under any circumstances. Isolation and moral impressions are the main remedies trusted: these are seconded by baths, mild purgatives, and means proper to recal the evacuations, which in many of these cases are suppressed.

BICETRE.

This hospital, analogous to *Salpetriere*, is destined for indigent or deranged old men. The number of beds amounts to 3000. The physicians of this establishment are, MM. Ferrus, Rochaux, and Prus; the surgeon is M. Murat. The diseases and affections most common are, paralysis, chronic bronchitis, rheumatism, cataract, and contused wounds. This latter circumstance is only to be accounted for by the existence of a canteen in the hospital, at which the old gentlemen daily get drunk. Notwithstanding the most pressing efforts of the medical men for its suppression, the administration has not yet assented, merely because the sale of the brandy brings in 18,000 francs per annum.

There is a division of incurable cancerous patients, amounting to 76. The general mortality is 1 in 6.86, or, amongst the indigent, 1 in 7: deranged patients, 1 in 6; epileptic, 1 in 11; and cancerous, 1 in 7.

Those affected with mental alienation are under the care of MM. Ferrus and Lelut, the former of whom gives most interesting lectures on his special subject. By their activity, all the improvements projected by Pinel have been executed, and *Bicetre* has now become a model of establishments for the alienated. The treatment resembles that pursued at *Salpetriere*; but *Bicetre* possesses the advantage of having attached to it a farm, upon which 60 of the deranged patients daily work.

CONGESTIVE CEPHALALGIA.

BY A. T. THOMSON, M.D. OF THE NORTH LONDON HOSPITAL.

A CASE of considerable interest and instruction is that of Ellen Langridge, who was admitted on the 21st of November. The account which she gave of herself was the following. On the Sunday prior to her admission, she was attacked with a violent pain of the head, and throbbing at the temples. Leeches were applied without any relief being afforded. She can assign no cause for the attack. Her bowels are habitually constive. The pulse, on her admission, was 100, and oppressed. The pupils were dilated, and impatient of light; the tongue was slightly fur-

red ; and she stated that the catamenia was regular. She has suffered, at intervals, from palpitation, and pain at the chest.

These symptoms were sufficient to lead me to regard the case as one of *congestive cephalalgia*, a disease which often affects the delicate and irritable ; and thence, as in the case before us, it appears more frequently in women than in men. Its exciting causes are, emotions of the mind, irregularities in diet, or in the condition of the bowels. Now these are more likely to produce in such individuals an increased impetus of blood to the head than in the more phlegmatic ; and as the quantity of blood in the arteries is augmented, and that in the veins necessarily diminished, under such circumstances, owing to the nature of the cerebral circulation, congestion must necessarily take place. This causes heat and excitement ; and, from the disturbance of the brain, the headache which ensues is often accompanied by flashes of light, floating phantasms before the eyes, and, occasionally, with singing and other noises in the ear. The feet also become cold, and the circulation, from being quick at first, is afterwards languid and oppressed. When these symptoms are not relieved, a morbid condition of the brain ensues, and the disease assumes a new character, and is more difficult to remove. The treatment of such cases consists in fulfilling two distinct indications :—

1st. To relieve the cerebral congestions.

2ndly. To subdue, by augmenting tone, the susceptibility of nervous impression, so as to prevent its recurrence.

In endeavoring to fulfil the first of these indications in this case, the patient was cupped behind the ears ; and the bowels were freely opened with a pill, containing gr. viij. of calomel, followed by a strong cathartic. This is a large dose of calomel ; but I have already pointed out to you the great influence of such doses in allaying irritability of the stomach ; and in affording that stimulus to the common orifice of the biliary and pancreatic ducts in the duodenum, which is required for emptying those organs when they are overloaded. Much bile and pancreatic juice are poured into the gut, and placed in a situation to be swept away by the subsequent purgative.

On the 26th our poor patient had derived little benefit by the treatment adopted ; the head was, therefore, ordered to be shaved, and an evaporating lotion applied over it. Cold, in such cases, does not operate in so limited a manner as is usually supposed ; it acts upon the rest of the body, by nervous sympathy, abating general excitement ; and, probably, more is to be attributed to this than to any abstraction of caloric which the evaporating fluid can carry off. I fear, gentlemen, that this case may prove to be one of those which often resist every means of management ; and seem, at length, rather to wear themselves out than to be cured.

I have seen tonics salutary in such cases ; but in the present instance, the excitement is too great to permit their employment. You should, however, be aware that excitement is not always a legitimate reason for not ordering tonics ; and nothing is of more practical importance than the fact that tone and excitement are two very opposite conditions of the system.—*Lancet*.

CASE OF PERFORATION OF THE INTESTINES.

BY T. G. HAKE, M.D. PHYSICIAN TO THE BRIGHTON DISPENSARY.

A GIRL, named Ellen R., of the age of twelve, delicate in frame, but in the enjoyment of excellent health, until within six months before the invasion of her fatal illness, with the exception of an occasional attack of sore throat, became, in November last, a patient of the Brighton Dispensary. During the previous half-year, she had experienced, to use her own words, a "jumping sensation" in the lower part of the bowels; she was also listless and drowsy, and, without holding to some fixture, was unable to stand erect. The whole of a numerous family to which she belonged had lived for a period of four months almost exclusively on pork. At that time many pigs had died in the vicinity of our town; many, too, which would otherwise have soon perished of disease, were killed, "for the purpose (to repeat the vulgar expression) of saving their lives."

Since that time several of the younger branches of the family have been visited by various congestions of the brain, bowels, lungs, larynx, &c., but all save one have recovered; and on the history of her disease it is that we have now entered.

After having partaken one day of her usual meal, she vomited with great violence, but before this she had complained of pain in the situation of the lumbar vertebræ. Pain in the left side succeeded, which was augmented by pressure and the act of respiration. There was difficulty in breathing; the dull sound, crepitous rale, pyrexia, &c., were present, together with vomiting of a frothy liquid.

The above symptoms not having yielded to the usual remedial measures in less than three weeks, were, at the expiration of that time, followed by *pain in the left iliac region, sudden, violent, and increased by pressure.* The pain rapidly spread itself, and was accompanied by tenderness over the whole abdomen, which for some days remained soft, but finally became hard and tense. There was occasional borborygmus; and the bowels were constipated while they remained soft; when they became hard, there was no difficulty in acting on them by means of purgative medicines. *The countenance was changed; there was vomiting of a frothy fluid.*

The disease thus invaded the system. The tongue at this period became, and continued, of a natural color; there was loss of appetite and thirst; and the stools were of a dark-brown appearance, and fetid odor.

The rhythm of the heart was perfect; the pulse large, strong, frequent, equal. The veins were well developed; the blood drawn from them was dark, buffy, cupped.

Except one night, after taking a large dose of calomel and opium, the perspiration was abolished. The urine was in diminished quantity, and of a high color. There was general atrophy.

The pain in the abdomen, at one time, was nearly subdued, but the countenance remained contracted without intermission. There was pain of the head and eyes, less severe, however, than during the attack of pneumonia. Deafness manifested itself during three or four days, and

disappeared, the symptoms being then at their height. The sense of smell was perverted, suffering from an unpleasant state of excitement, until it ultimately was lost. The intelligence of the brain was diminished, its imagination deranged, except at such times as the sufferer might be addressed in a sharp tone. The intellectual functions were delirious, especially during slumber.

The patient complained of pain and cramp in the hip ; the thighs were raised on the pelvis ; there was snatching of the bed-clothes. *There had been occasional shivering, from the invasion to the termination of the malady.*

On the evening of the second day previous to dissolution, *there was vomiting of a seroso-purulent fluid, mixed with intestinal matter* ; this continued at intervals to be thrown up in large quantities, during the whole night. On the next day this last symptom was unabated, but on the following morning had ceased, a few hours after which the child breathed her last. From the time that the stercoraceous vomiting commenced, no stools were produced by the natural channel.

A considerable quantity of calomel had been administered during the progress of the disease ; but while the constitution of the child resisted mercurialization, the mother, who constantly slept with and nursed her, was severely salivated ; and the gums of a second attendant were affected as if by infection.

Autopsy.—The body was examined by Dr. Hake and Mr. Rugg. The result of the investigation was such as might have been expected from the prominent symptoms. An abscess had formed in the cavity of the pelvis, extending into the inguinal and iliac regions. A false membrane, of a dense, tough, nature, formed the walls of this abscess ; it was adherent to the intestines, and separable only at the right iliac region. On its internal free surface this membrane possessed the character of mucous tissue. Adhering strongly to, and, indeed, lost in the peritoneum itself, towards the abdominal parietes, the bladder, uterus, sigmoid flexure, iliac vessels, &c., this false membrane was easily separated from the peritoneum and the ileum, with the interior of whose canal it communicated by means of a neat, regular opening, which one might have supposed to have been the work of the scalpel instead of the ulcerative process, a true characteristic of the disease. The contents of the cavity were seroso-purulent, mixed with intestinal matter. This fluid was also abundantly discovered in the intestines and stomach.

In various parts of the jejunum and ileum there was atrophy of the mucous and muscular coats, to such an extent as to leave only a thin transparent membrane, which had contracted on itself, leaving the canal of no greater calibre than double the capacity of a goose-quill. Atrophy, indeed, may be said to have here gone on increasing until absorption was complete, leaving only the elastic cellular coat of the canal. Inflammation was seen in occasional patches on other parts of the intestines, but no other vestige of it was left on the peritoneum than in the false membrane described above.

In the mesentery there was a small cyst of a dense structure, and containing concrete pus.—*Ibid.*

RETENTION OF THE PLACENTA TWENTY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE EXPULSION OF THE FŒTUS.

BY JOHN P. HARRISON, M.D. OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

IN the afternoon of January 3d, 1833, I was requested to visit a poor white woman, named Baker. I found her in bed, and an old colored midwife with her, who stated that about three hours before my visit, Mrs. Baker, having had pretty cutting labor pains, though it was several months before her proper time, got up to go to the vessel to evacuate her bowels, and whilst there, the fœtus suddenly escaped from her into the chamber pot. The umbilical cord was ruptured, and the placenta retained. There was little or no hæmorrhage, either at the time of the expulsion of the fœtus, or subsequently. Upon examination, I found that there was no hæmorrhage, and no labor pains, but that the placenta was still in the uterine cavity.

This, apparently, was a fair and unexceptionable case in which to try the parturient efficacy of the ergot of rye; and most faithfully and extensively was it tried—it being given first in fifteen grain doses, every half hour, until near half an ounce was administered. Producing sickness of the stomach, it was laid aside, without any contractile effort being produced by it in the uterus.

This is the second case of retained placenta, in which it has failed in my hands of inducing expulsive movements in the uterine fibres. The other case was a lady who aborted at the fifth month of utero-gestation, and whose placenta was retained without hæmorrhage. Having failed with the ergot, given to a large amount, the placenta was taken away by the hand.

In Mrs. Baker's case, both the medicinal and manual resources failed. After waiting till ten o'clock at night, the hand was introduced—the patient being placed on her back, with the knees drawn up, and the thighs flexed on the body. But after the most careful and persevering effort on my part, for half an hour, to bring away the placenta, I had to desist, for the poor woman seemed exhausted. She had been in a delicate state of health, previous to this abortion, and had aborted several times before; and, in one of these instances, a similar difficulty occurred. Next morning, a consultation was held on her case, and efforts again made to bring away the placenta, but they proved unsuccessful.

The placenta was attached to the upper part of the fundus of the uterus, and there existed a strong contraction of the body and neck of the organ, which prevented a seizure of the after-birth by the hand. No hæmorrhage nor after-pains existed even at this period.

As the case appeared one in which the nimia diligentia might endanger life more than a partial surrender of the case into the hands of nature, we determined to sustain her general strength by mild tonics and appropriate nutriment, to employ injections into the vagina, of bark, myrrh, and charcoal, to abate the fœtor of the discharges, and watch the emergent phenomena. The patient gradually increased in strength, and after going about her house for about a week, after getting out of bed, on the twenty-seventh day posterior to the abortion, the placenta came away suddenly,

with little or no pain. There had been a slight discharge from the vagina, subsequent to the 3d, which was not, however, very offensive. The placenta was small, and gave very little evidence of putrefaction.

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TEMPORARY LODGEMENT OF FOREIGN SUBSTANCES IN RESPIRATORY TUBES.

BY N. R. HEATH, SURGEON WICKLOW (IRELAND) INFIRMARY.

CASE I.—*Removal of a Foreign Substance from the Larynx.*—Patrick Doyle, ætat. 56 years, residing in the Glen of Imaal, in the county of Wicklow, in January, 1834, while eating pork and speaking at the same time, had a bit of the meat stick in his throat. I did not see him until after the lapse of twenty-four hours. He was then in a state of very great suffering, and nearly exhausted; his breathing was intensely laborious, with stridulous noise, inability to swallow, and countenance expressive of most intolerable anxiety. Before I saw him, a probang had been used, which rather increased his sufferings. On a careful examination, it appeared to me that the bit was in the larynx. I, therefore, proceeded to make an opening into the cricothyroid space; and having introduced the point of a small silver catheter, with a little management succeeded in pushing the morsel into his mouth: immediate relief was the consequence. I advised him to remain very quiet for a few days; and as it happened to be at night, he did stay quiet until morning, when, finding no inconvenience, he would submit no longer to confinement. Four or five days after, he showed me the cut, quite healed, having walked upwards of ten miles on that day.

Now this case is a very simple one, and it would be nothing if a surgeon had any assistance; but where he is called on to act among a parcel of wild mountaineers (who only judge of a surgeon's proceedings by his success), and by candle light, in a poor cabin, *c'est une autre affaire*. The next case, however, is more interesting.

CASE II.—*Ejection of a Plum-stone from the Right Bronchus.*—Wilson, æt. 11 years, the son of a butcher in Kingstown, near Dublin, having a plum-stone which had a hole drilled through the middle of it to make what children call a birdcall, fixed between his teeth, while drawing in his breath, through the hole, drew the stone into the trachea. This occurred at Castledermot on the 15th of September, 1834, eight miles from my residence. I saw him on the 17th. A probang had been used, and he had been bled and had vomited. I found him in a state of the utmost suffering, his lips blue, his eyes protruding, and the thorax laboring. In fact, he was struggling in the most violent state of excitement. Yet he could swallow without great difficulty, and there was no emphysema. Having laid him on a table, with a pillow under his neck, I proceeded to open the trachea, making my incision midway between the cricoid cartilage and top of the sternum; this operation on a child in such a state of excitement is by no means so easy as some who never performed it may imagine. The network of veins, the little arteries

crossing, the dense fascia which connects the sterno-hyoid muscle, which cannot be divided by the nail, and requires the knife, at least in the living subject ; then those muscles becoming roused, and rising up during the choking efforts of the child, showing a deep bloody cavity ; then the same description of fascia between the sterno-thyroid ; then the larynx quite small, and moveable and soft ; and, lastly, the difficulty of entirely stopping hemorrhage before we open the trachea, make the proceeding rather a delicate one. Having divided five rings of the trachea I waited a few minutes, and then introduced a small silver catheter down the tube, and felt the foreign body lying at the bifurcation of the trachea, hoping to detach it, that it might be brought up by coughing ; but it slipped towards the right bronchus and there remained. At this moment the child experienced great relief, and I thought it prudent to discontinue further pursuit. At that juncture, too, the peculiar chirping sound of the birdcall was perfectly audible, caused by the air rushing through the little foramen in the plum-stone, in its passage to and from the right lung. I did not leave any tube in the opening. I think that to do so is, in general, a bad plan. It is not only useless, but highly injurious.

The patient was now sent to his bed. He complained of a pain in the right side corresponding with the situation of the foreign body. Fever now set in, and he suffered occasionally severe attacks of dyspnoea. However, the inflammatory symptoms were kept down, but the chirping sound continued until the 24th, precisely a week subsequent to the operation, when, during a fit of coughing, he felt something at the wound in his neck, and putting up his hand, received the birdcall into it. The peculiar musical sound was discontinued and never returned. A profuse muco-purulent discharge and cough now harassed him for about a fortnight, succeeded by sweating ; in fact, he became hectic, and I feared would sink. However, he rallied and was able to return to Kingstown, a journey of forty miles, at about the end of October. I have since heard that his health is tolerably good, and that the wound in the trachea, which was not larger than the hole in the plum-stone when he left this, and which I found very difficult to heal, is quite closed.

POISONING FROM OXALIC ACID.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The following case is presented to the profession to show the obstinacy of the stomach to receive impressions from medicines when acted on by other powerful agents, and it may guide others not to be sparing of their remedial means when life is held, at best, only by a too uncertain tenure.

During the summer of 1831, my colleague and myself were called in haste to see Mrs. H., who swallowed about 1-4 of an ounce of Oxalic Acid in solution, in mistake for cream of tartar dissolved in water, which was accustomed to be kept in a decanter for an acid drink. As the servant woman found no vessel convenient except an empty decanter standing beside the one containing the cream of tartar, she carelessly placed between two and three ounces of oxalic acid in a pint of water in the

vacant vessel, and left it on the sideboard as a convenient place, when she was obliged to clean the brass in the room.

When I saw the patient, which was about ten or fifteen minutes after she had taken the poison, she was violently agitated with fear, and complained of a gnawing pain in the region of the stomach. I soon administered a large dose of pulv. ipecac.—say 100 grains—for I thought I had once before seen a case of poisoning prove fatal from giving emetics in ineffectual doses. I followed this by large draughts of chamomile tea, and titillation in the throat, but all without effect. After fifteen minutes I gave in lukewarm water about the same quantity of ipecac., followed by large draughts of tepid water. An interval of fifteen minutes followed the dose of ipecac. when I gave about a drachm or more (as I imagine) of sulph. of zinc. The intervals between these powerful doses were employed in mechanical means to excite vomiting, or giving draughts of tepid chamomile tea. It was not a little surprising to see the large volume of liquids poured into the stomach in the short space of thirty minutes, for the lady was constantly swallowing tepid water or tepid chamomile tea. The sulph. of zinc began to take effect in a few minutes, and the vomiting continued about an hour without great violence. Prostration of the muscular powers ensued, and some gastric irritation. Mucilaginous cooling drinks, combined with soda, were prescribed by my partner, Dr. R. Hathaway (now chief surgeon and physician to the Seamen's Retreat Hospital, Staten Island), and this seemed best fitted for the state of the patient and her demand for drink. After a few hours diarrhœa supervened, which was checked by Dr. H. with the judicious use of opiates, and the patient recovered after two or three days, with the exception of a slight gastric irritation.

In this case it may be well to notice that emetics usually, in very moderate doses, were sufficient to excite the action of the stomach; 2ndly, that a stomach-pump would have been applied if it had been at hand; 3rdly, that when the stomach was distended with fluid, vomiting was partly induced or elicited by abdominal pressure; and, lastly, the presence of the fluid prevented the action of the acid in the powerful state in which it was swallowed.

Yours, &c.

R. TOLEFREE, JR.

New York, April 3, 1835.

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MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

For the purpose of showing the profession of this Commonwealth how their representatives manage their interests in the hall of legislation, the following report of a debate which took place a few weeks since, has been principally extracted from the Centinel—to whose editor we are indebted for preserving this specimen of four-pence-halfpenny economy on the one hand, and true generosity and enlarged views upon the value of medical education on the other. A debate arose upon the resolve, which

was subsequently rejected, to grant the Berkshire Medical Institution five thousands dollars.

Mr. THAYER, of Braintree.—Mr. Speaker, I am in favor of the passage of this resolve : I am sorry, sir, to see any opposition to the appropriation of so small a sum as \$5000, for so important and so useful an Institution. Sir, I am always in favor of appropriations (with judgment) for literary purposes ; and now, sir, we are requested to give the small sum of \$5000 to “a young and feeble institution,” one which, if we have confidence in the committee and the community, has but a poor library, a miserable apparatus, and is much in debt, and if no charitable hand is held forth to give her some relief, she will decline and die, and the public will then see their error when too late. But, sir, I will not despair ; she may still be sustained—for, sir, where is there an institution of equal or more importance, the one in this city excepted ? Where can there be one better located ? No where, sir, in this State. I would merely ask gentlemen who are opposed to this grant, who they would look to for assistance and relief, when laid on a bed of sickness, tortured with pain, either from disease, or from a broken limb ? Would they not send for the best and most skilful physician or surgeon ? or would they send for some ignorant quack, whose medicine would be poison, whose advice (were they to follow it) would terminate their existence ? Sir, we are told that if we appropriate money to sustain or assist this institution, we are doing it for the benefit of the neighboring States, who send their young men to this institution for an education, and then return to their own. Not so, sir (excuse me, Mr. Speaker, for the allusion), but have we not instances of gentlemen coming from other States, residing here, and elected to the highest and most honorable situations ; and sir, do we receive no benefit from instances of this kind ? I think we do, sir, and we have had sufficient proof of the fact during the present session. Sir, who are to be benefited by this institution ? Are not the poor but honest and talented sons of our farmers and mechanics in the western part of this State, whose means will not permit them to come to this expensive city, and attend the lectures here ? Much has been said, sir, in regard to the horrid practice of dissection ; but is it not indispensably necessary that a physician or a surgeon should perfectly understand the formation, in every part, of the human body, before he can apply a remedy which is necessary ? And can he be thus qualified without an actual inspection of the whole frame ?—Sir, as it respects myself, and could it be done without the knowledge of my friends, I can safely say that I would willingly give my body for dissection, if it would be the means of saving the life of one individual. What matter is it to me, sir, where my bones, after death, are laid, or what becomes of my body, after my spirit has taken its departure ? Are we not in duty bound, sir—are we not commanded to do all we can to promote the happiness and life of our fellow beings ? It is in my opinion a mistaken, foolish, and superstitious idea in regard to dissection ; it has always been brought forward and made an argument, merely to influence the passions rather than the good understanding of the House.

What good does the surplus money do which remains in our treasury ? I wish, sir, that every dollar beyond the necessary expenses of our government was appropriated for the benefit of learning and literature. Distribute it, sir, to institutions of this kind, and to our primary schools, and then you will give your children a fortune which no mercenary speculator or ignorant quack can deprive them of.

Mr. BILLINGS, of Conway.—Mr. Speaker, it was my intention not to make any observations upon this subject at this time, having expressed my views the last year ; and from the decision of the House at that time, I did not think it would have been necessary—and although the subject is now again before the House, I should now have let it pass without saying a single word, were it not to reply to the gentleman from Brimfield ; and, sir, although I have generally gone with that gentleman, I cannot now think as he does ; and I think it my duty to say a few words in opposition to making this grant.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman says that the excitement is all done away ; that he hears of no difficulty now, since the law of '32 was passed. Sir, he is mistaken ; there is about as much excitement now in my neighborhood as there ever has been ; and, sir, it is but a little while since, that a person was buried, and the friends of the deceased were obliged to watch the grave until the corpse was in such a situation that it would not answer for dissection.—Sir, the gentleman from Brimfield tells us that there is about one hundred students that attend those lectures every course ; and, sir, if they get but 40 dollars (as the gentleman says) for each student, that sum will amount to \$4000 per year, which, I should think, would be amply sufficient to pay all the salaries of the professors, and for all other necessary expenses, and also to pay all their debts in a few years, and buy them a library and an apparatus ; and I think, sir, under these circumstances, that the institution would stand on its own foundation, and flourish well. Farther, sir, look at our expenses ; look at the vast expense of this session, which, perhaps, may sit till May, as we now go on. Besides, sir, we are to have an extra session, which probably will sit 8 or 10 weeks ; and in addition to all this, sir, a large committee is to sit during the recess to revise the Statutes, the expense of which we cannot now tell ; and further, sir, we have made several appropriations, and many more are called for. Twenty-five thousand dollars, we are told, is to be appropriated to the Lunatic Hospital. Sir, what are we coming to ? Why, our treasury will be drained of the last cent, and the State become bankrupt, if we go on in this way. Sir, I am entirely opposed to passing this resolve ; it is not helping the poor young men of this State, as that gentleman says—but I will say no more, sir.

LYING-IN HOSPITALS.

AMONG all the benevolent efforts in this country for the amelioration of the poor, it is a subject of surprise that no more attention has been elicited towards the importance of establishing Lying-in Hospitals. In all the large cities of Europe, with a few exceptions, they are of long standing, and have been very generally acknowledged by philanthropists to be of the highest value. Those of Paris, are supposed by some to offer, to the thoughtless and abandoned, improper inducements for throwing upon the public the burden of maintaining a multitude of helpless infants. Such is the constitution of society, however, in the United States, based upon a sense of religious accountability, that such an objection cannot here be urged against them. To the virtuous poor, such institutions are of incalculable benefit ; because a generous provision is there made for meeting those innumerable exigencies to which they are exposed.

This broad field for the exercise of philanthropic enterprise still remains unoccupied in the midst of nearly all the Atlantic cities, where there is a

dense population of those honest, but unfortunate families, whose ceaseless labor scarcely procures the means of a scanty subsistence. In their behalf would we petition, and express a hope that some of those princely fortunes a kind Providence has entrusted to the care of thousands in this best of all lands, may yet yield something for the endowment of this interesting species of charity. Physicians might effect much in exciting the attention of communities to a just view of a subject so vastly important; indeed, it devolves upon them to urge, in this respect, the positive claims of the needy.

Boston possesses one lying-in hospital, eligibly located, which promises to fulfil the exact intentions of its kindly disposed patrons. Whenever we are possessed of the history of its origin, together with its internal policy and regulations, our readers will be made acquainted with them.

THOMPSONIAN NATIONAL INFIRMARY.

We have been kindly furnished, by a respected correspondent in Maryland, with an account of the doings of the House of Delegates in that State, in regard to a petition, from the above-named institution, for an act of incorporation. The remarks of Dr. Williams, of Worcester Co., in opposition to the bill, are characterized by a just representation of the benefits resulting from a scientific system of medicine, and a fearless display of the monstrous inconsistencies and absurdities of a mode of practice founded alone on rash and reckless experiment. We are able this week to give only the Report of the Committee on Corporations, which was finally confirmed in the House by a large vote, and the bill of incorporation rejected. It reflects great credit on the committee who reported, and the House of Delegates which thus wisely acted upon it.

"The committee on corporations, to which was referred the bill, entitled, an act to incorporate the President and Managers of the Thompsonian National Infirmary, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report, that they view the science of medicine, when established upon the basis of practical and philosophical research, as one of the most important developments of the resources of nature and art, to the wants and sufferings of man. That they view the principles and practice of the Thompsonian system, as one of that species of quackery and empiricism, which would be extremely dangerous to the community at large, and particularly to the poor, the blinded and ignorant class of the people, if it should be placed upon an incorporated footing in the State. The committee feel, that in recommending any such measure, they would at once be placing at the disposal of every man and set of men, who thought fit to apply for an act of incorporation, for the purpose of enabling them the better to barter and vend their own particular nostrums, the lives of a vast portion of their poor fellow citizens, a class of people who stand more in need of the intelligence and protection of their representatives, than any other portion of our constituents. Under these considerations the committee beg leave to report unfavorably thereon.

PHILIP B. KEY, *Chairman.*"

A New Instrument.—Through the pages of a distant exchange journal, reference is made to a new tooth extractor, by a Boston dentist. It is certainly almost miraculous that the information has reached us. Any

corroborative testimony respecting such an instrument, will be very neighborly—and we will exultingly narrate the whole story for the benefit of whom it may concern.

Bleeding Bands.—Dr. Brewer, of the house of Brewer & Brothers, druggists, of this city, has shown us a beautiful article for cording the arm; it is simply an India rubber hoop, cut from a cylindrical tube, that may be packed in the bottom of a lancet case. The invention is of real utility, and not likely to go out of fashion.

A Pill Machine.—One man, with a simple machine, now in use in an establishment in Boston, where pills are made “as good as the hygeian,” makes a groce of them, perfectly round and smooth, quicker than the most infatuated hypochondriac could swallow a dozen of the true octagonals from the British College of Health.

Value of Hops in Diseases of the Skin.—One of the best external applications for many eruptive diseases of the skin, is a strong decoction of hops, in which the limbs or other affected parts are to be bathed, several times a day. The decoction should not be used till it has become perfectly cold. In bad ulcers of the leg, the most satisfactory results have been repeatedly realized from this simple preparation.

Amputation of the Neck of the Uterus.—M. Lisfranc, in a memoir recently read before the Academy of Sciences of Paris, and published in the *Gazette Médicale*, for 21st of June, 1834, states that he has amputated the neck of the uterus affected with cancer in ninety-nine cases, eighty-four of which were cured, and fifteen died; among the latter he includes the cases of relapse. He further states, that all his unsuccessful cases were in women in whom the disease was far advanced.

Water as a Therapeutic Means.—M. Trousseau’s theory of cold water in external affections is simple enough; it prevents the development of vital properties, by refrigeration, and, by cleaning the wound, prevents the danger of purulent absorption. In support of its efficacy, he cites several cases in which cold water was employed by him with success. In two cases, where the fingers and toes were lacerated by machinery, the assiduous employment of cold aspersions effected union of the injured parts with little or no suppuration.—*Lancet*.

Pulmonary Consumption.—It has been calculated by Dr. Young, that one in four of the inhabitants of this country perish by consumption; one in three, perhaps, contains tubercles at death; and as the population of England and Wales amounts to about 13,000,000, and the annual number of deaths to about 290,000, the deaths from consumption must be 72,500; or, on an average, 33 individuals die in England and Wales every hour, and of these eight have ulcerated cavities or tubercles in the lungs. Again; phthisis is a chronic disease; and, from data collected by Bayle and Louis, its average duration has been calculated, by Dr.

Clark, to be two years. There must, consequently, exist among us a phthisical population of 145,000 souls, constantly suffering from one or other of its symptoms, some with the first hectic flush on the cheek, others lying in the last stage of emaciation, and all requiring the aid of the medical profession. If, in addition to this, we call to mind the severe cases of scrofula, lumbar abscess, spinal disease, white swelling, and kindred affections, where tuberculous matter is formed, the general pathology and treatment of which are regulated by the same principles, we shall perceive the importance of directing our especial attention to this class of disorders, and shall come to the conclusion, notwithstanding the prominent place phthisis occupies in medical literature, it scarcely receives, at present, its due share of investigation and study.—*Ibid.*

DIED—At Sutton, Mass. Dr. Nathaniel Morse, 87.—At Washington, Dr. Richard H. Bradford.—In England, belonging to the military service—the following gentlemen of the medical staff—viz. Drs. Bombay, Roche, Guignard, Barker, and Denny.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending April 11, 23. Males, 15—Females, 8. Of quinsy, 1—drowned, 1—accidental, 3—croup, 1—infantile, 2—consumption, 3—lung fever, 1— inflammation on the lungs, 1—scarlet fever, 2—fits, 3—dropsy on the brain, 1— inflammation on the brain, 1—child-bed, 1.

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Boston, February 4, 1835.

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(Jan. 6—tf.)

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